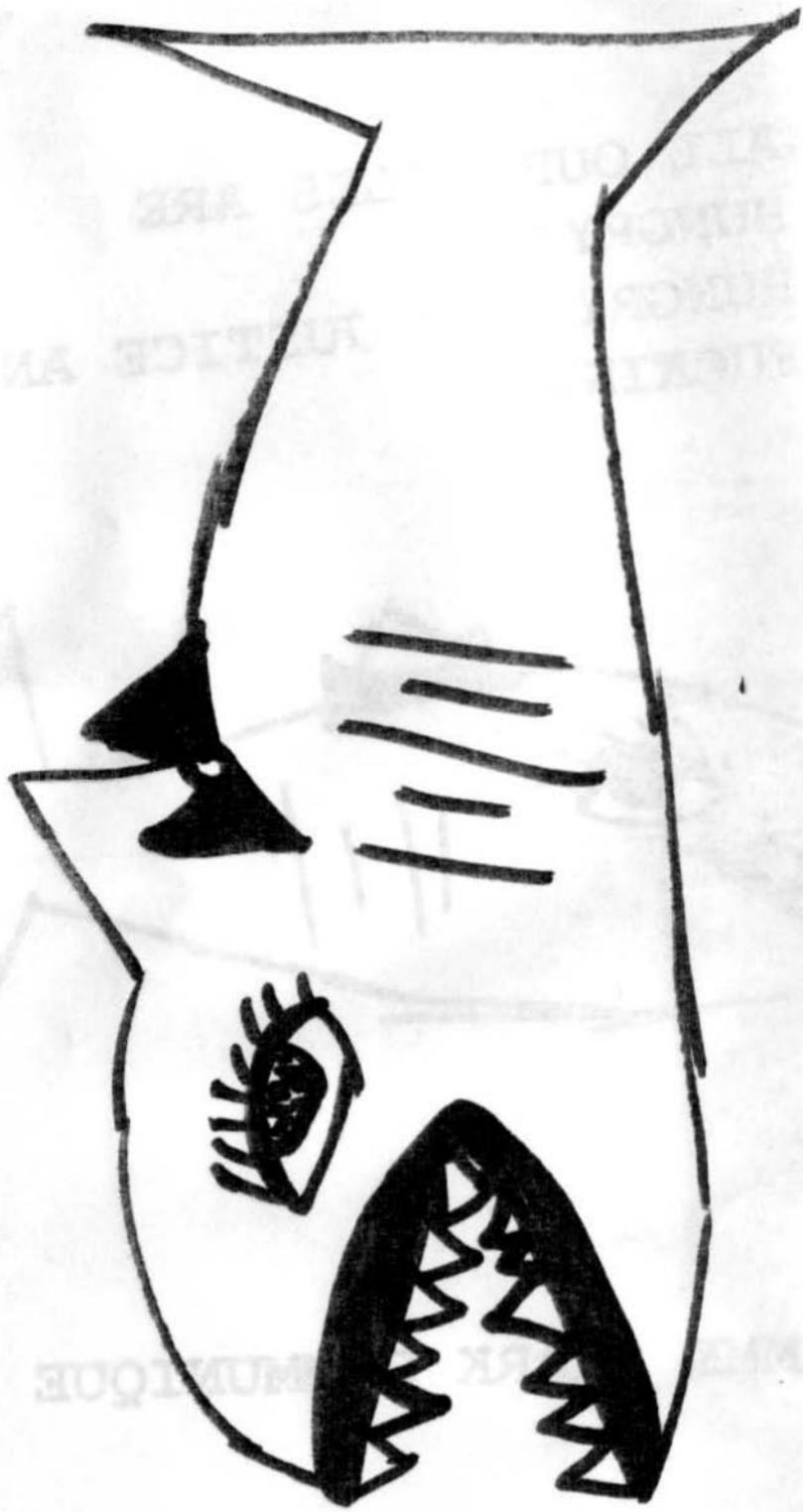


**ALL OUR HOLES ARE
HUNGRY:
HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE AND
FUCKING**

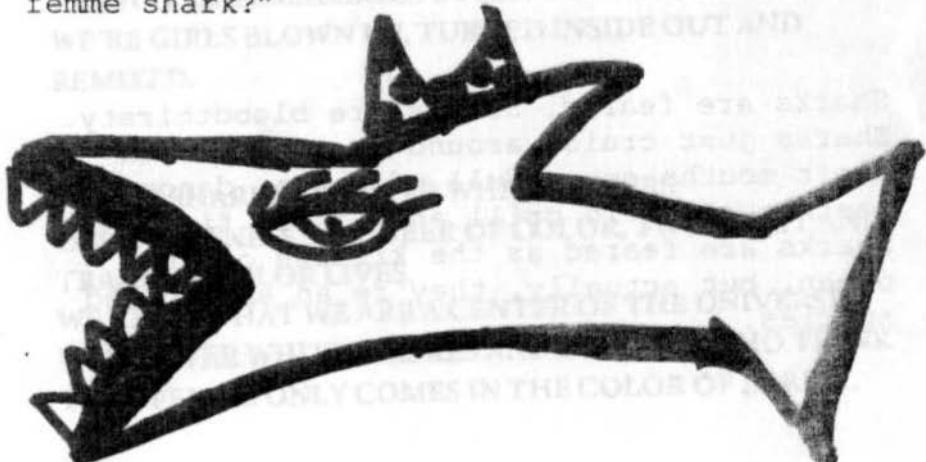


**FEMME SHARK COMMUNIQUE
#1**



WHO ARE THE FEMME SHARKS?

The concept of the Femme Sharks was born when Zuleikha was having a really horrible time at her job at "the McDonald's of abortions and birth control." In one spectacular display of assholishness, a white coworker who she was giving a ride to across the bridge at 6 AM chirped up with, "It's just so hard being white these days...Don't you think that Asians have an unfair advantage getting into nursing school?" When Zuleikha said, calmly, that she didn't agree and she thought that there were things like, you know, systemic structural racism, in the world, the coworker said, "Yeah, I just wish we could hurry up and get equal so I wouldn't have to think about it anymore." Later the coworker burst into tears and started trying to hug it out when Zuleikha politely requested that they not have that kind of conversation again. In response, Zuleikha started doing aqua-aerobics like an hour a day to stop from going on a killing spree, and Leah joked, "What are you, some kind of femme shark?"



What started as an inside joke between two SBBFFFS (Slutty Brown Best Femme Friends Forever), became a manifesto on Livejournal, then a contingent at the Dyke March. At first it was just something I was doing to have fun, but it quickly became something a lot bigger. I realized when I pounded out the manifesto and the response was so crazy that it was because writing it crystallized everything I'd been feeling about being a femme of color. As someone put it on Livejournal, it was "a femme of color sermon, call to arms, affirmation and prayer." It was everything I'd felt about femme not just being about blonde girls wearing pink, but about the big deal about being fierce women of color or down white girls who are hot strong girls who are political who see the connection between everything in our lives.

FEMME SHARKS TAKE OVER THE WORLD. shark shark it up!

Sharks are feared. Sharks are bloodthirsty. Sharks just cruise around the ocean with their mouths open, full of sharp, dangerous teeth sucking in crill and little fish. Sharks are feared as the killers of the ocean, but actually, they're an endangered species.

FEMME SHARK MANIFESTO!

FEMME SHARKS DON'T EAT OUR OWN.

FEMME SHARKS LIKE TO EAT, THOUGH.

FEMME SHARKS RECOGNIZE THAT FEMMES COME IN ALL KINDS OF SIZES AND EACH KIND IS LUSCIOUS. WE WORK TOWARDS LOVING OUR CURVY, FAT, SKINNY, SUPERSIZE, THICK, DISABLED, BLACK AND BROWN FINE-ASS BODIES EVERY DAY. WE REALIZE THAT LOVING OURSELVES IN A RACIST/SEXIST/HOMO/TRANSPHOBIC/ABLIST/CLASSIST SYSTEM IS AN EVERY DAY ACT OF WAR AGAINST THAT SYSTEM.

FEMME SHARKS DON'T THINK ANOREXIA IS CUTE.

WE THINK EATING A BIG-ASS MEAL IS SEXY.

WE SAY SCREW "HEIGHT WEIGHT PROPORTIONATE PLEASE" IN CRAIGSLIST WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN ADS AND IN LIFE.

WE HAVE BIG MOUTHS AND WE KNOW HOW TO USE THEM. DON'T FUCK WITH US!

ASK US IF WE WANT TO FUCK, THOUGH !

FEMME SHARKS WILL RECLAIM THE POWER AND DIGNITY OF FEMALENESS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. WE'RE GIRLS BLOWN UP, TURNED INSIDE OUT AND REMIXED.

FEMME SHARKS ARE OVER WHITE QUEERS OBLIVIOUSNESS TO QUEER OF COLOR, TWO SPIRIT AND TRANS OF COLOR LIVES.

WE KNOW THAT WE ARE A CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE WE'RE OVER WHITE FEMMES AND BUTCHES WHO THINK THAT FEMME ONLY COMES IN THE COLOR OF BARBIE.

WE'RE OVER BUTCHES AND BOYS AND OTHER FEMMES
TELLING US WHAT WE NEED TO DO, WEAR OR BE IN
ORDER TO BE "REALLY FEMME."

FEMME SHARKS RECOGNIZE THAT FEMMES, BUTCHES,
GENDERQUEER AND TRANS PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR SINCE
FOREVER.

THAT BEFORE COLONIZATION WE WERE SEEN AS
SACRED

AND WE WERE SOME OF THE FIRST FOLKS MOST
VIOLENTLY ATTACKED
WHEN OUR LANDS WERE INVADED AND COLONIZED.

FEMME SHARKS WON'T REST UNTIL WE RECLAIM OUR
POSITIONS
AS BELOVED FAMILY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.

FEMME SHARKS AREN'T JUST DIMEPIECES AND TROPHY
WIVES

FUCK THAT!

WE MIGHT BE YOUR GIRL,
BUT WE'RE OUR OWN FEMMES.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT FEMMES ARE LEADERS OF OUR
COMMUNITIES.

WE HOLD IT DOWN, CALM YOUR TEARS, ORGANIZE THE
RALLY, VISIT YOU IN JAIL, GET CHILDCARE HOOKED UP,
LOAN YOU TWENTY DOLLARS.

FEMMES ARE WELDERS, AFTERSCHOOL TEACHERS,
ABORTION CLINIC WORKERS, STRIPPERS, WRITERS,
FACTORY WORKERS, MOMS, REVOLUTIONARIES
DEDICATED TO TAKING THE SYSTEM THE HELL DOWN
SO WE CAN BE FREE!

FEMMES ARE LEADERS IN TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS/
DEFENDING OUR QUEER AND TRANS OF COLOR
COMMUNITIES.

WE USED OUR STILETTOS AS WEAPONS AT STONEWALL.
WE WERE THE TRANSWOMEN WHO FOUGHT BACK AT
THE COMPTON
CAFETERIA

WE'RE THE GIRLS WHO STARE DOWN ASSHOLES STARING
AT OUR LOVERS AND FRIENDS ON THE SUBWAY.
WE WALK EACH OTHER HOME
ACT CRAZY ON THE BUS TO GET ASSHOLES TO MOVE
AWAY
AND KNOW HOW TO BREAK SOMEONE'S LEGS
WE SHARE WHAT WE KNOW.

FEMME SHARKS STAND UP FOR THE NEW JERSEY FOUR
AND EVERY OTHER QUEER AND TRANS PERSON OF
COLOR IN THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR
DEFENDING OUR LIVES.

WE BELIEVE IN SELF-DEFENSE AND SELF-
DETERMINATION.

WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND
OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITIES
AGAINST ANY KIND OF ATTACK-
FROM ASSHOLES ON THE STREET
TO RACIST WHITE CLUB OWNERS WHO WANT THREE
PIECES OF ID
TO FOLKS WHO INSIST THAT WE'RE STRAIGHT.
TO PEOPLE WHO TAKE OUR LAND.

WE REMEMBER OUR DEAD- SAKIA GUNN, GWEN ARAUJO,
AND MANY OTHER QUEER AND TRANS POC WHO DIED
BECAUSE OF RACIST, HOMO/TRANSPHOBIC VIOLENCE
NOT AS A POLITICAL STATEMENT
BUT AS WOMEN WE LOVED IN REAL LIFE
WOMEN WHO COULD'VE BEEN US OR OUR LOVES.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE LEFT OUT OF "THE
STRUGGLE."
NOT THIS TIME.
WE'RE NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE.

FEMMES GODDAMN WELL KNOW HOW TO STRAP IT ON,
CHANGE THE OIL IN THE CAR AND PUT UP SHELVES.
WE CAN DO ANY GODDAMN THING WE WANT!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE FEMME SHARKS!
FEMMES ARE BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG WHEN WE
BOTTOM
AND WE'RE HOT AS HELL WHEN WE TOP
OUR BOTTOMING AND TOPPPING ARE BOTH GIFTS TO
BE MET WITH RESPECT.
WHEN WE TAKE OUR LOVERS FIST ALL THE WAY INSIDE
ASK FOR WHAT WE WANT
BE THE BEST DIRTY GIRL
OR MAKE OUR LOVERS FLIP
WE'RE A FUCKING MIRACLE.
IN THE WORDS OF JILL SCOTT, "YOU GOTTA DO RIGHT
BY ME. IT'S MANDATORY, BABY."

FUCK THAT!
WE MIGHT BE YOUNG,
BUT WE DON'T NEED TO BE
WE RECOGNIZE THAT FEMMES ARE LEGIT
FEMME SHARKS SHOP AT ROSS, FOXY LADY, VALUE
VILLAGE, THE HM \$5 RACK, TORRID AND THE DOLLAR
STORE, AND KNOW HOW TO SHOPLIFT
WE CONCOCT BRILLIANT STRATEGIES TO LOOK FINE
ON TEN DOLLARS OR LESS.
WE'RE ONLY "INVISIBLE" IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO
LOOK FOR US.

WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

RECOGNIZE THAT FEMMES ARE EACH OTHERS' WEALTH

HOS BEFORE BROS, ALWAYS!

FEMME SOLIDARITY AND LOVE FOR EACH OTHER

IS A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE

WE BELIEVE IN GIRLS LOVING GIRLS, RESPECTING EACH

OTHER'S BRILLIANCE

NOT FIGHTING OVER BOIS OR BUTCHES

NOT TRYING TO BE THE ALPHA FEMME

WE'RE ANTI-DRAMA

BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF COMMUNITIES THAT HEAL

HURT, APOLOGIZE, LISTEN TO EACH OTHER AND MAKE

THINGS RIGHT.

WE BELIEVE IN BUILDING OUR QTPOC COMMUNITIES

STRONG

FEMME SHARKS WERE THERE WHEN FRIDA KAHLO

HOOKED UP WITH HER GIRLFRIENDS

WHEN JOAN NESTLE, CHRYSTOS, JEWELLE GOMEZ,

ALEXIS DE VEUX, SYLVIA RIVERA, DOROTHY ALLISON,

MINNIE BRUCE PRATT AND AMBER HOLLIBAUGH MADE

QUEER FEMME HISTORY

WHEN ZAPATISTA WOMEN HOOKED UP

WHEN OUR COUSINS WERE MAKING OUT IN THE WOMEN'S

SECTION OF THE MASJID

WHEN OUR GRANDMAS AND QUEER AUNTIES SNUCK OUT

AT NIGHT

DIDN'T GET MARRIED TIL LATE- OR AT ALL

HAS A BEST GIRLFRIEND

AND STOOD UP FOR HER

FEMME SHARKS WERE THERE.

FEMME SHARKS ARE IN THE BODIES OF COUNTLESS SEX WORKERS, NEIGHBORDS AND LADIES WAITING FOR THE BUS AND IN THE LINEUP AT CENTURY 21.
AT RIIS BEACH, FUNKASIA, LOVERGIRL NYC, BUTTA, MANGO, MANHATTAN'S, DESILICIOUS, AND BIBI!
FEMME SHARKS LIVE ON THE REZ, IN CAPETOWN, NEWARK, OAKLAND!!!!, THE SOUTH SIDE, NEW ORLEANS, COLOMBO, JUAREZ AND BROOKLYN,
IN SUBURBIA, THE FARM, AND LITTLE SMALL TOWNS.
WE'RE IN FOSTER CARE, THE PSYCH WARD, JUVIE, AND ABOUT TO BE EVICTED.

WE ARE SURVIVORS WHO ARE MORE THAN WHAT WE SURVIVED.
WE ARE FIGURING OUT HOW TO HEAL
AND HOW TO MAKE IT SO THAT NO ONE
WILL HAVE TO SURVIVE SEXUAL VIOLENCE EVERY AGAIN.
WE BELIEVE IN THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM AS WE KNOW IT
TO MAKE SOMETHING MUCH MO BETTA
AND WE BELIEVE IN MAKING OUR OWN WAYS TO FIGHT AND RESON THE DAILY.

A FEMME SHARK IS ANY GIRL
WHO IS TOUGH, HUNGRY, FIGHTS FOR HERSELF AND HER FAM
AND IS WORKING ON BECOMCING THE KIND OF GIRL
WHO FINDS GOD IN HERSELF
AND LOVES HER FIERCELY

WE'RE YOUR BEST GIRLFRIEND AND YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE
LOVE AND RAGE
THE FEMME SHARKS

*en by Founding Femme Shark Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

The Femme Sharks Say: HRC is BULLSHIT!

The Femme Sharks, a movement of tough, loudmouth queer femme girls who are the leaders and defenders of our communities, say NO to a giant money party of hella privileged gays and lesbians who think that trans and genderqueer and brokeass queer and trans POC can go sit and spin. WE ARE NOT INTO IT.

***With high rates of murders, other forms of violence and everyday discrimination in jobs, housing, public accommodation, plus everyday hate against trans and gender variant people, it's time to stand up and DEMAND THE RESPECT WE DESERVE!

*** An ENDA that leaves out trans and gender variant folks is bullshit, and so is a group of high-powered elite queers who don't really give a damn about the rest of us as long as they can get married and get stock options.

*****Remember what Frederick Douglass said; "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will."

****Come out and PARTY AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND RESPECT this Saturday at the protest outside HRC's big gala! Look for our fins and our rage! Ally Sea Creatures are always welcome! And check it out- we got a mention on page 7 of the San Francisco Bay Guardian!

**LOVE AND RAGE,
THE FEMME SHARKS**

HOW TO BE A SHARK

a lot of people have written us asking "how can we join the movement?" the fact is that "capacity wise" (as they like to say in the nonprofit industrial complex) the Femme Shark movement is founded by us, who are two girls, one of whom is an overworked writer/medical assistant/ abortion counselor, the other of whom is a writer/ performer/tour booker/grad student who has a million ridiculous part-time jobs. it's really hard for us to check email, even. however, we're all about the people rising up autonomously, and we were like, huh, how can we have it be like The Women's Army in Born In Flames? underground cells, sleeper cells of Femme Sharks spreading the fierceness everywhere. so here are some thoughts. this is how you can bring Femme Sharks worldwide:

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BE A SHARK:

1. BE NICE TO OTHER GIRLS. Don't be a bitch unless it's to Fight Oppression and Bullshit. Don't start stupid, insane drama that drains all your energy and the good out of life. Don't see other femmes as competition or hate on them for achieving.
- 1.a STAND UP FOR OTHER GIRLS WHO ARE BEING FUCKED WITH. On the street, on the subway, at the lineup in the airport.
2. FIGHT OPPRESSION AND BULLSHIT. FUCK THAT WORD "INTERSECTIONALITY", BUT, YOU KNOW, BE IT. Fight for queer and trans folks of color caught up in the prison industrial complex like the New Jersey 4, transwomen of color (who are OG SHARKS) who have tons of people trying to kill them, women of

color trying to get fucking health care, First Nations women doing land claims, etc. Sharks Shoplift, Spraypaint, Stencil, self-Defend, Make Up Really Obnoxious Hot Pink Chants and Cheers, Scream, and FUCK SHIT UP, ESPECIALLY WHILE WEARING RIDICULOUSLY SLUTTY OUTFITS.

3. BE GOOD WITH BEING SINGLE. Work on being so awesome and complete in yourself, cock-rocking the single cock well, that if somebody shows up, cool, but if not, you're alright. Don't be so desperate and insecure about not having a butch/femme that you're clawing out other girls' eyeballs over any pathetic specimen that shows up, or making your relationship your job.

3a. REMEMBER: HIS DICK IS NOT GOLD-PLATED. DO NOT START FEELING LIKE WHATEVER RANDOM TRANSDUDE/BUTCH YOU'RE DATING IS SO RARE THAT HIS PRESENCE IS LIKE JEHOVAH IN YOUR AREA. HIS DICK IS NOT GOLD-PLATED, BUT YOU GODDAMN WELL ARE. If you're in a miserable relationship, leave.

4. BE BLOODTHIRSTY AND FEARLESS, IN A NON-CRAZY WAY. Fuck shit up for freedom! BE READY TO RIP SOMEONE'S FACE OFF IF YOU NEED TO. Practice.

4a. BE A LOUD AND VISIBLE PRESENCE: at demos, at the club, on the street. This can be done by: rocking ridiculously slutty outfits and hot pink satin fins, chanting loudly, travelling in a pack. Be loud, interrupt boring chants and business as usual with some realness that cuts through the shit like a buzz saw.

5. EAT A GODDAMN MEAL, AND ENJOY IT. Do not be anorexic or go around moaning that you gained all this weight so you're a size 4 now, Love being thick. love having a body, figure out how to do it. AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE BEING FAT AND BODY POSITVE.. Eat a goddamn bacon avocado cheeseburger or some lebneh or a breakfast with some fried chicken in it. Preferably right after yoga. WORK ON NOT HATING YOUR BODY.

6. SHARKS JOIN INCITE WOMEN OF COLOR AGAINST VIOLENCE, OR ARE SUPPORTERS. If you are stuck for ideas, there is a shit ton on their website. Go here: www.sharksjoinincite.com

7. THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF LEGACY YOU WANT TO LEAVE IN THE WORLD. DO IT. BE AMBITIOUS. CREATE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS. MAKE YOUR DREAMS REAL.

8. CENTER WOMEN OF COLOR, DISABLED WOMEN, WOMEN WITH NO MONEY, TRANS AND INTERSEX FOLKS, ETC. WE ARE NOT THE GODDAMN MINORITY REPORT, WE ARE A CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

9. LOOK FINE ON \$5 OR LESS. DON'T BUY INTO THE IDEA THAT FEMME= BEAUTY= MONEY.

10. FUCK AND FIGHT AGAINST THE POWER, WHETHER ITS HRC. YOU MOM, YOUR FUCKED-UP UNCLE, THE NONPROFIT, PRISON OR MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, ETC. RECLAIM THE POWER AND DIGNITY OF FEMALENESS- ESPECIALLY WOMAN OF COLOR, BROKE-ASS-, DISABLED, OLD FAT AND OTHERWISE REVILED FORMS OF GIRLNESS.

how to make a pink or grey pinstripe satin fin:

you will need:

a hot glue gun

fabric (check the dollar store, the thrift store, East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, etc)

elastic and a stapler

that puffy stuff used to stuff dolls (get at fabric store)

Basically, cut out some triangles (2, same size) and hot glue two sides together.

Stuff with puffy stuff. Hot glue third side shut. You can either cut enough elas-

go around someone's chin (head fin) or around their body (dorsal fin) and staple it to the center of the fin. Or, for a less labor intensive project, you can just bobby pin head fins to people's hair.

SHARK MOVIES:

BORN IN FLAMES

MONSOON WEDDING

TIMES SQUARE

HEDWIG

BHAJI ON THE BEACH

YOUNG SOUL REBELS

FREEWAY

SET IT OFF

TONGUES UNTIED

GIRL FIGHT

IRON LADIES

possible sharks:

Michelle Obama
Rosa Clemente
Suheir Hammad
Leila Khaled
Assatta Shakur
Sylvia Rivera
The Fat Femme Mafia
Marlon Riggs
your mom
Chrystos
Gloria Anzaldua
Jean Grae
Theory
your best friend
you

shark juice:

if you drink alcohol, get some vodka, and some guava strawberry juice. mix a shitload of each together in a big thermos. chop up some fresh mint and muddle it in

The Femme Sharks are an idea that was dreamed up by SBBFFF (Slutty Brown Best Femme Friends Forever) Zuleikha Mahmood and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha in March of 2008, Oakland, CA.

The Femme Sharks are a movement founded by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha and Zuleikha Mahmood to reclaim the power of femmes as fierce, tough, hungry girls who are the leaders and defenders of our communities. Pissed off at the stereotypes we keep running into inside and outside the queer community, that femme = weak, stupid, drama-laden, anorexic and looking like Barbie, in March 2008 Slutty Brown Best Femme Friends Forever Zuleikha Mahmood and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha founded the Femme Sharks, a movement that re-inscribes femme as voracious, tough, complicated, and living inside many kinds of bodies- the kind of girls who can fuck your ass and change the oil in the car at the same time. Our manifesto has circulated widely across North America, and our Dyke March contingent in support of the New Jersey 4 was a huge hit. Projects in the works include an Oakland sex party for queer and trans POC benefiting QTPOC causes like the New Jersey 4. Check out our manifesto here: <http://brownstargirl.livejournal.com/260796.html> and email us at thefemmesharks@gmail.com for more info or to get involved.

**FEMME SHARKS ARE ON PATROL!
JOIN THE MOVEMENT! SHARK SHARK IT UP!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL

THEFEMMESHARKS@GMAIL.COM

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SHARK CHANTS

WHEN I SAY FEMME YOU SAY SHARK!

WHEN I SAY FEMME, YOU SAY POWER!

WHEN I SAY FINGER, YOU SAY BANG!

FEMME SHARKS WANT JUSTICE! AND WE WANT TO
GET BANGED!

ALL MY HOLES ARE HUNGRY! HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE
AND FUCKING!

FEMME SHARKS HATE ISRAEL! A LOT! IT SUCKS!
MY PUSSY! I GOT ONE! DO YOU WANT TO FUCK
IT? YEAH!

FEMME SHARKS LOVE STUDS!

FEMME SHARKS LOVE OUR TRANSISTERS!

FEMME SHARKS STRAP IT ON!

FEMME SHARKS SAY FUCK COLONIALISM!

WHEN I SAY FEMME YOU SAY POWER! FEMME!

POWER! FEMME! POWER!

WHEN I SAY FEMME, YOU SAY SHARK!

WHEN I SAY FINGER, YOU SAY BANG!

FEMME SHARKS LOVE FAT GIRLS! FEMME SHARKS
ARE FAT GIRLS!

the ancestors
Were sharks!!



femme sharks
in action at
sf dyke march
2008 :



THEFEMMESHARKS@GMAIL.COM